



328200

12 THE WAUKEGAN NEWS-SUN: Thursday, July 25, 1963

H. P. Takes Action To Eliminate Stink

BY KARL LUOMALA
(Staff Writer)

HIGHLAND PARK — The "stink" being raised by several Skokie Highway businessmen nearly rivals the stench about which they are complaining.

The nauseous odor emanates from the city's sanitary landfill site on the east side of the highway, between the Deerfield Road overpass and Rte. 22.

The three 30-foot-deep ditches were carved out when the city sold the dirt to the state for construction of the overpass.

The middle ditch, about 300 feet long, already is filled 10 feet deep with garbage and cover-soil, but rain nearly two months ago filled the two adjacent ditches with about the same level of water.

The pungent smell arises primarily from the stagnant water in the southern ditch.

UNDER CONTROL

"We've got it (the smell) under control and it will be taken care of by the end of the week," Mayor Fred Geiser said yesterday, repeating a promise he gave two irate residents before the City Council Monday night.

"Every day there is less and less odor. We've tried everything," said Geiser. "We put in chemicals but the (recent) rain has diluted it. It has been bad, I'll admit."

Geiser said the city is filling the stagnant ditch with building material, trees, shrubs and "everything we used to burn." He said the material should absorb the water.

Geiser said the city had been pumping the contaminated water into the north branch of the Chicago River until other communities south of Highland Park complained.

NO SATISFACTION

Garden supply dealer Leonard Meyer of MSS Inc., where the odor seems most prevalent, said he complained about seven weeks ago but got no satisfaction.

"Our store business has really gone to hell," said Meyer.

William McDonald Jr. of McDonald Plumbing said he has had to keep the office door closed during recent hot weather because of the odor.

Several employees of the businesses complained of headaches in the past few weeks.

"This is terrible," added Allen Matta of Highland Park Electric.

Customers in the air-conditioned Idlewood Electric store also have complained of the odor, according to a secretary there.

Equally irked is veterinarian Dr. Leonard Kohn, whose animal hospital is located across from the landfill.

THREATENS ACTION

One woman who brought her dog to Kohn reportedly got a whiff of the odor and threatened to re-

conditions before Kohn led her outside his air-conditioned office and pointed out the cause.

Seventy-five trucks from, Wilmette, Glencoe, Northbrook, Lake Forest, Highwood, Deerfield, Kenilworth and Highland Park dump a total average of about 50,000 cubic feet a day into the ditches.

Landfill foreman Lewis Garlington estimated the three ditches should be filled to grade level and contain about a million cubic feet of garbage by winter.

Then another ditch will be dug farther east on the fill site. The entire area in four or five years is proposed for a golf course and winter sports area.

Explaining why other communities are allowed to dump in Highland Park, Geiser said: "Landfills are very scarce. We're trying to help these towns until they

can get dumps of their own. We've got dumping land for 20 years, but this won't happen again.

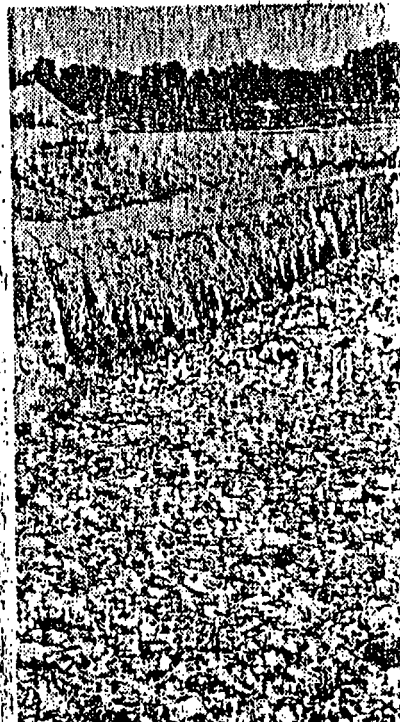
"We could get more cities to dump here, but we won't," said the mayor. He noted that the city received another barrel of odor-ridding chemical Tuesday.

TAKES DOWN

Oddly enough, the landfill is holding down garbage fund taxes for Highland Park residents, who accounted for only \$20,000 of the \$83,000 collected for the fiscal year 1961-62.

"We don't levy the maximum rate," said City Clerk Roy Millen, "just enough to take up the slack."

The "slack" is the difference between operating expenses and revenue from the other seven communities, which pay 55 cents a cubic yard to dump at the fill



GARBAGE GALORE — ALL

Skokie Highway businessmen are c from the ditch of water at the right

site. "Without the other communities, I suspect there would be an increase in garbage taxes." Millen said revenues should in-

crease t include fill for Meyer nnessmen

tion Stink

et dumps of their own. We've
umping land for 20 years,
is won't happen again.

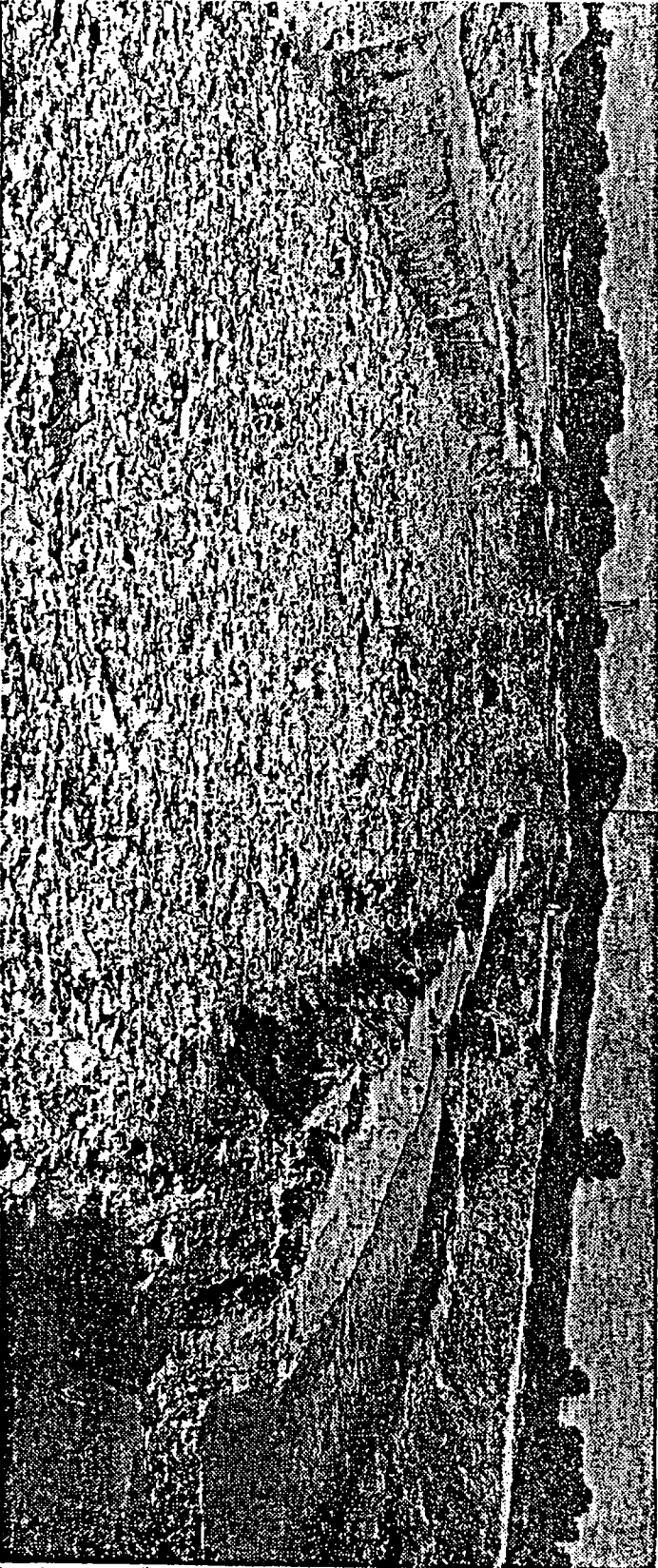
e could get more cities to
here, but we won't," said
Mayor. He noted that the city
ved another barrel of odor-
ous chemical Tuesday.

IS DOWN

ily enough, the landfill is
z down garbage fund taxes
ighland Park residents, who
nted for only \$20,000 of the
0 collected for the fiscal
1961-62.

"I don't levy the pro-
said City Clerk Roy Mil-
just enough to take up the

"slack" is the difference be-
operating expenses and rev-
from the other seven com-
es, which pay 55 cents a
yard to dump at the fill



GARBAGE GALORE — All this garbage may seem offensive, but
Skokie Highway businessmen are complaining about the foul odor coming
from the ditch of water at the right. The ditch, on the east side of Skokie
site.
"Without the other communities,
I suspect there would be an in-
crease in garbage taxes."
Millen said revenues should in-
crease this year because they will
include last year's sale of the dirt
fill for the overpass.
Meyer and several other busi-
nessmen expressed concern over
which possible contamination of wells
is being filled in as soon as possible. City officials say the ditch should be
filled to water level, alleviating the odor, by this weekend.
Eugene Theiel, east district su-
pervisor for the Lake County
Health Department, said the wells
are deeper than the level of the
ditch water, which is sufficiently
sealed in clay soil to prevent a
contamination hazard. He said the health department
solution to the odor is filling the
ditch as quickly as possible.